

# Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study

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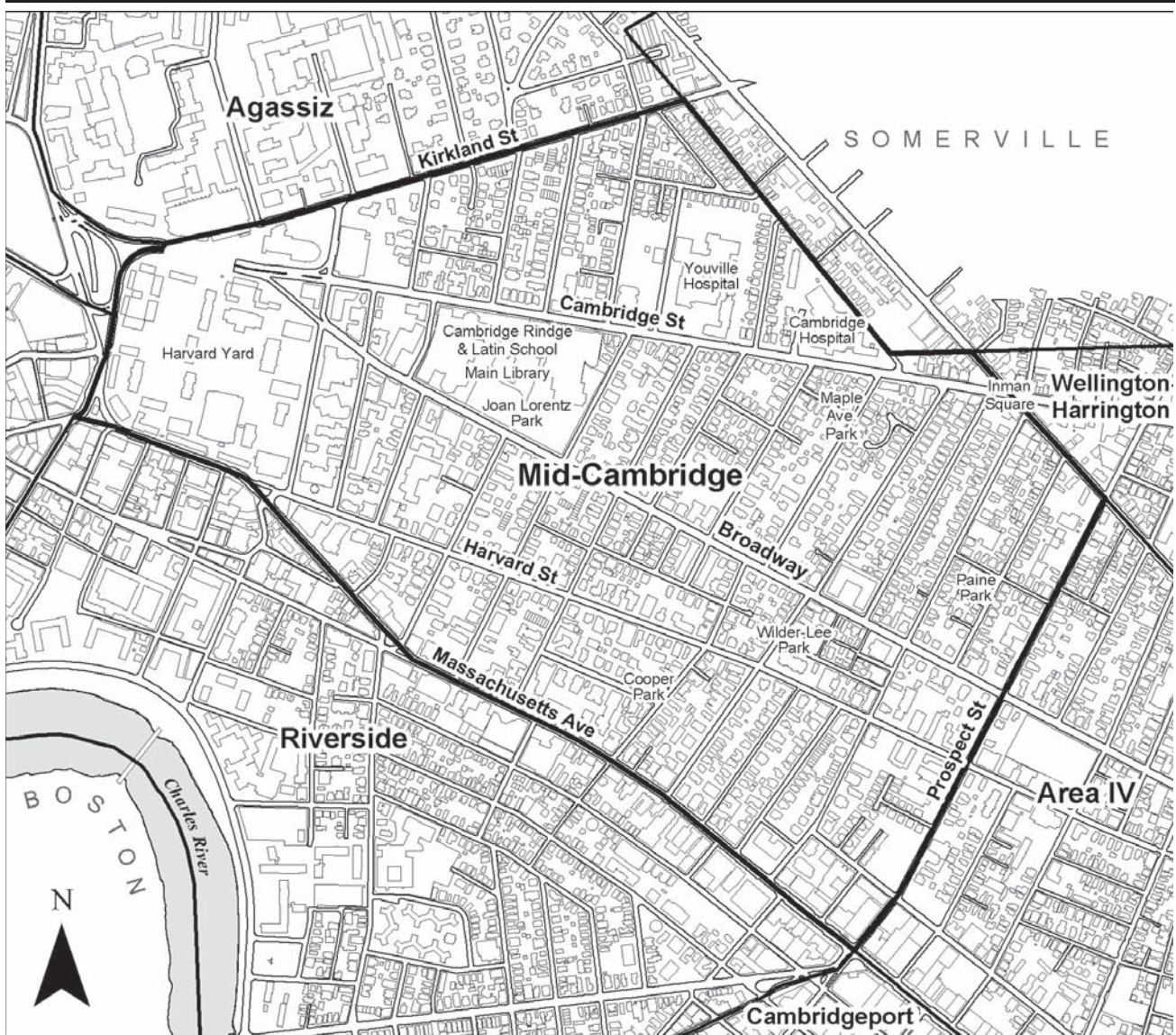
## *Summary*





# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Boundaries



## ***Original Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study***

The original Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study Committee consisted of twelve members of the Mid-Cambridge community, who met regularly between October 1993 and May 1994. During their meetings, this committee discussed a wide variety of issues affecting the neighborhood, heard presentations from Community Development Department staff, and received input from other members of the Mid-Cambridge community. The topics discussed by this study committee include land use, transportation, housing, economic development and employment, and open space. Their effort resulted in a document, the *Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study* (published in 1998), containing an analysis of each of these topics along with recommendations to help guide long-term planning within the neighborhood. These recommendations are listed in the “Recommendations and Action Plan” table in the last section of this document, with an implementation status and progress-to-date summary for each.

## ***Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study Update***

The Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study Update process involved a series of three public meetings held between May 2002 and February 2003, at which Community Development Department staff described some activities the City has undertaken since 1998 to address land use, transportation, housing, economic development, and open space issues in the neighborhood.

At these meetings, members of the Mid-Cambridge community also discussed the recommendations of the original *Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Study* (1998) and made some new recommendations to supplement the original set. These new recommendations are included in the “Recommendations and Action Plan” table in the last section of this document, with an implementation status and progress-to-date summary for each.

## ***Demographics Update***

### **Population and Age Characteristics**

According to figures from the US Census, between 1990 and 2000, the population of Mid-Cambridge rose by 4%, to 13,589. During the same time period, the population of the City of Cambridge rose by 6%, to 101,355. Mid-Cambridge remains the most populous neighborhood in the city.

There were a few significant changes to the age distribution in Mid-Cambridge between 1990 and 2000. As shown in the following chart, there was a sizable increase in the number of 18-to-24-year-olds in Mid-Cambridge, a sizable decrease in the number of 35-to-44-year-olds, and a large increase in the number of 45-to-64-year-olds. There were similar changes within the city at large, but they were proportionally smaller than in Mid-Cambridge.

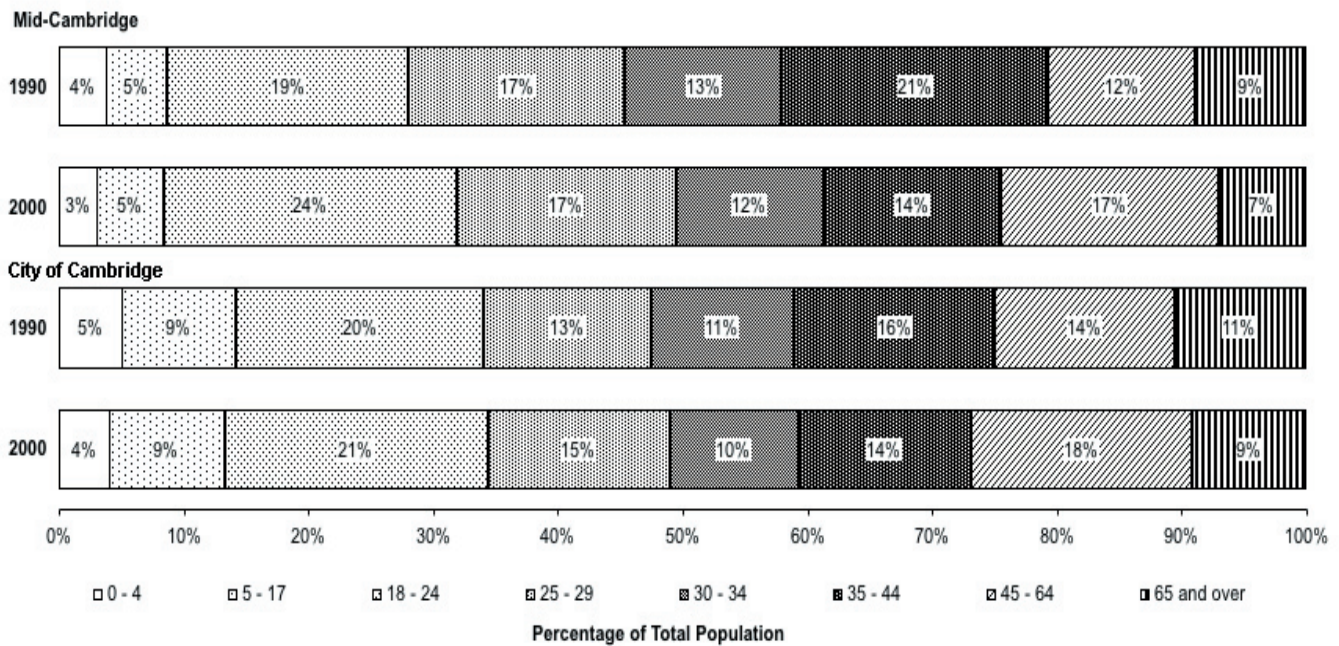
### **CHANGE IN POPULATION BY AGE**

	<b><i>Mid-Cambridge</i></b>			<b><i>City of Cambridge</i></b>		
	<b><i>1990</i></b>	<b><i>2000</i></b>	<b><i>Change</i></b>	<b><i>1990</i></b>	<b><i>2000</i></b>	<b><i>Change</i></b>
<b>Total Population</b>	13,020	13,589	+ 4%	95,802	101,355	+ 6%
4 years old and younger	494	409	- 17%	4,759	4,125	- 13%
5-17 years old	640	732	+ 14%	8,853	9,322	+ 5%
18-24 years old	2,507	3,203	+ 28%	18,997	21,472	+ 13%
25-29 years old	2,258	2,376	+ 5%	12,852	14,721	+ 15%
30-34 years old	1,641	1,613	- 2%	11,013	10,481	- 5%
35-44 years old	2,784	1,925	- 31%	15,430	13,942	- 10%
45-64 years old	1,532	2,372	+ 55%	13,827	18,010	+ 30%
65 years old and older	1,164	959	- 18%	10,071	9,282	- 8%



As illustrated in the chart below, the age distribution for Mid-Cambridge in 2000 is similar to the citywide age distribution, with slightly fewer children and more 18-to-24-year olds.

## AGE DISTRIBUTION



## Race, Ethnicity, and National Origin

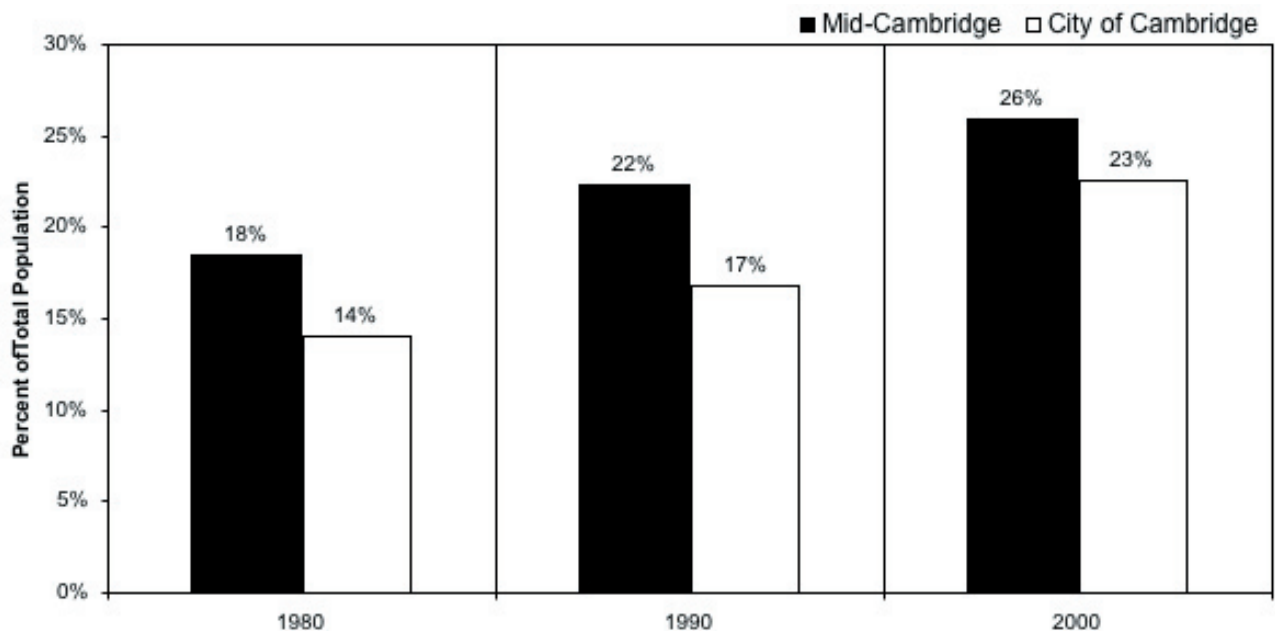
The most significant change to the racial composition of Mid-Cambridge between 1990 and 2000 was a 33% increase in the Asian/Pacific Islander population, mirroring a 50% citywide increase in that demographic. There was also an increase in the number of residents identifying themselves as an “other” race, and there were some residents who identified themselves as “two or more races” (which was included as an option for the first time on the 2000 Census form). In the 2000 Census, 5% of Mid-Cambridge residents and 8% of Cambridge residents identified themselves as a race other than White, Black, Asian/Pacific Islander, or Native American. There was a slight decrease in the number of residents identifying themselves as White or Black, but in 2000 the neighborhood still had a higher proportion of White residents and a lower proportion of Black residents than the city at large. Finally, the number of residents of Hispanic ethnicity (which could include persons of any race) increased by about 32% in Mid-Cambridge and by about 15% citywide, though the proportion of Hispanic residents remains slightly lower in Mid-Cambridge than in the city at large.

## RACIAL DISTRIBUTION

	<b>Mid-Cambridge</b>		<b>City of Cambridge</b>	
	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Total Population</b>	13,020	13,589	95,802	101,355
White	84%	78%	75%	68%
Black	5%	5%	14%	12%
Asian / Pacific Islander	9%	12%	8%	12%
Native American	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
Other Race	1%	2%	2%	3%
Two or More Races	N/A	3%	N/A	5%
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)	4%	5%	7%	7%

The foreign-born population of Mid-Cambridge also increased between 1990 and 2000. As shown in the chart below, while the percentage of foreign-born residents in the city has grown steadily between 1980 and 2000, Mid-Cambridge has maintained a significantly larger percentage of foreign-born residents than the city at large.

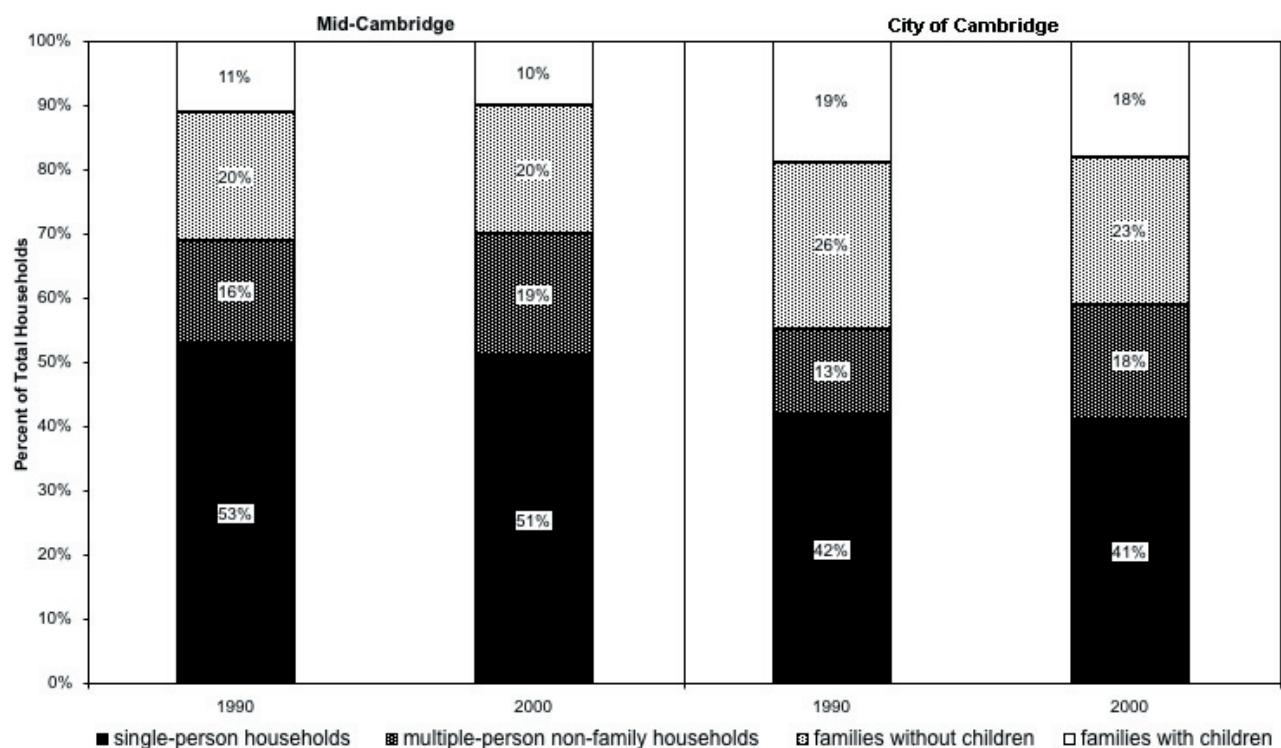
## FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION



## Households, Families, and Group Quarters Population

The household composition of Mid-Cambridge changed very little between 1990 and 2000. In 2000, Mid-Cambridge still had a smaller proportion of family households (households consisting of at least two related persons) than the city at large, with 30% versus 41%, and only 10% of households in Mid-Cambridge consisted of families with children, compared to 18% citywide.

## HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION



People living in group quarters residences, such as dormitories or hospitals, are considered “non-household persons” by the US Census and are not counted among the household population. In Mid-Cambridge, about 18% of the population in 2000 was living in group quarters, compared to 14% citywide. Mid-Cambridge has the fourth-highest percentage of group quarters residents of all neighborhoods in the city, behind MIT/Area 2 (70%), Riverside (34%), and Agassiz (33%).

## NON-HOUSEHOLD POPULATION

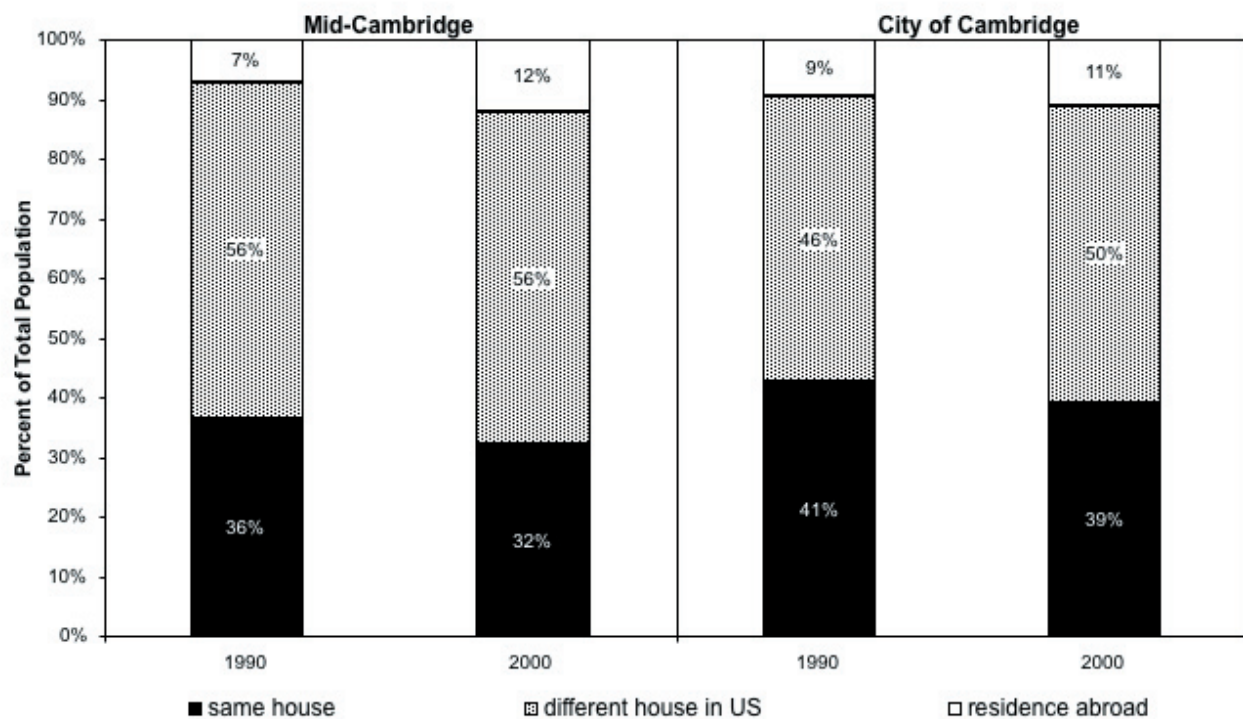
	<i>Mid-Cambridge</i>		<i>City of Cambridge</i>	
	<i>1990</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>2000</i>
<b>Total Population</b>	13,020	13,589	95,802	101,355
Population residing in group quarters	2,527	2,384	14,033	14,663
Percentage residing in group quarters	19%	18%	15%	14%

## Housing Units, Tenure, and Transience

The number and type of housing units in Mid-Cambridge have also changed very little between 1990 and 2000. The total number of housing units in Mid-Cambridge increased by 6%, compared to a 7% increase citywide. About 5% of the housing units in Mid-Cambridge were vacant in 2000, and of the occupied units, about one-third were owner-occupied and about two-thirds were renter-occupied. These figures are much the same as the figures for Mid-Cambridge in 1990, and for the City of Cambridge in 2000 as well.

As shown in the chart below, the rate of turnover among residents continues to be higher in Mid-Cambridge than in the city at large. In 2000, only 32% of Mid-Cambridge residents were living in the same house as they were five years prior, compared to 39% citywide. This figure fell between 1990 and 2000, while the proportion of residents who had moved into the neighborhood from abroad within the past five years rose substantially, from 7% to 12%.

## PLACE OF RESIDENCE 5 YEARS PRIOR TO CENSUS



## Education

Since the neighborhood includes part of the Harvard University Campus, Mid-Cambridge has a large number of residents who are currently enrolled at a university. According to the 2000 Census, about 31% of the Mid-Cambridge population attends college or graduate school, compared to about 26% of the citywide population.

Mid-Cambridge also has a very high level of educational attainment among its residents. Nearly 80% of Mid-Cambridge residents age 25 and older had a bachelors, graduate, or professional degree in 2000, compared to 65% citywide. Moreover, as shown in the chart below, the educational attainment of both the Mid-Cambridge and the citywide populations have been improving.

### HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTAINMENT ACHIEVED

